

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 17 are pending in the present application.

Page 2 of the Office Action includes a reminder that for a proper Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), a list of references submitted for consideration by the Office must be submitted in a separate paper. On 21 MAY 2003, Applicants submitted a PTO-1449 and a copy of a reference. The present Office Action does not include a copy of the PTO-1449 showing that the Examiner considered the reference. Applicants respectfully request that in a next Office Action the Office provide a copy of the PTO-1449 indicating that the reference was considered.

On page 2 of the Office Action there is also an objection to the drawings. Applicants amended the specification to clarify the usage of reference numerals 19 and 23. Applicants further amended the specification to correct several typographical errors. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully solicited.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are objected to because of informalities. Applicants amended claims 1 and 2 as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1 - 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants amended all of the claims to improve their form and to provide an antecedent basis for all terms. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 112 rejection are respectfully requested.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5 - 7 and 9 - 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,366,197 to Westland (hereinafter "the Westland patent"). This set of claims contains one independent claim, namely claim 1. Applicants amended claim 1 to clarify a feature that is neither described nor suggested by the Westland patent.

Claim 1 provides for a supporting device for a portable device. The supporting device includes, *inter alia*, (1) a supporting frame having (a) a first end that can be mounted on a base, and (b) a second end adjustably arranged in a sliding guide located at a supporting plate; and (2) a lever having (a) a first end pivotally mounted at the supporting frame and (b) a second end pivotally mounted on said supporting plate below said sliding guide. The second end of the supporting frame is movable along the sliding guide to vary a distance between the second end of the supporting frame and the first end of the lever.

An exemplary embodiment of such a supporting device is illustrated in FIGS. 4 - 7. There is shown (1) a supporting frame 12 having an end 31 in a sliding guide 11 located at a supporting plate 8, and (2) a lever 18 having an end pivotally mounted, at axis 23, on supporting plate 8 below sliding guide 11. Note that in a comparison of FIGS. 4 - 7, end 31 of supporting frame 12 is movable along sliding guide 11 to vary a distance between axis 23, i.e., the end of lever 18, and end 31 of support frame 12.

The Westland patent describes an adjustable copyholder. On page 4, the Office Action states that in the Westland patent there is a supporting frame (16) that has an end arranged adjustable on a sliding guide (part that 66 is on), and a lever (18). Referring to Fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 44 - 54 of the Westland patent, an end of item 16 is mounted to item 14 with pins 67 through bores 64 and 66, and an end of item 18 is mounted to item 14 with a pair of pegs 72 through a pair of bores 74. Bores 66 and 74 are apparently fixed with respect to one another. Consequently, the end of item 16 and the end of item 18 are at a fixed distance from one another.

Whereas in the Westland patent, the end of item 16 and the end of item 18 are at a fixed distance from one another, the Westland patent does not describe "said second end of said supporting frame is movable along said sliding guide to vary a distance between said second end of said supporting frame and said first end of said lever", as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the Westland patent does not anticipate claim 1.

Claims 2, 5 - 7 and 9 - 13 depend from claim 1. Hence, claims 2, 5- 7 and 9 - 13 are also not anticipated by the Westland patent.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, 5 - 7, and 9 - 13.

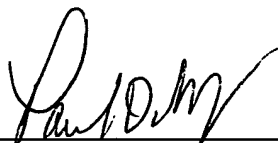
On page 6 of the Office Action, claims 14 - 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Westland patent in view of Applicants' disclosure. Claims 14 - 17 depend from, and thus inherit features of, claim 1. Whereas in the Westland patent, the end of item 16 and the end of item 18 are at a fixed distance from one another, the Westland patent cannot be construed as suggesting that such distance can be varied. Thus, the Westland patent cannot be applied, either alone or in combination with another reference, in a rejection of claim 1 or claims that depend from claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 14 - 17 are patentable over the Westland patent in view of Applicants' disclosure.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claims 14 - 17.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

5-22-03
Date



Paul D. Greeley, Esq.
Reg. No. 31,019
Attorney for the Applicants
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.
One Landmark Square, 10th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
Tel: 203-327-4500
Fax: 203-327-6401